

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Dry conditions continue. Livestock producers are supplementing pasture with hay.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Very dry conditions have deteriorated the condition of late planted soybeans even more. Crop losses will probably reach 50-60% or more. Pastures and hayfields are in poor condition. Vegetable farmers are harvesting the last of the tomatoes and other summer crops. Pumpkins and winter squash are nearing harvest. Winter greens have been planted. Strawberry farmers are planting next year's crop.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

A bit of rain helped but did not last long last week. Producers are baling corn stalks where possible. Crop Insurance has let some soybeans go and they are being harvested for hay. Pastures are in need of rain, very little stockpiling is going on. Crops are short but harvest is going on as it can in places. Cattle are being sold as feed reserves are dwindling.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The area is still dry, corn harvest is well underway with a wide range of yields, 20 to 90 bushels. Cotton is being defoliated, with estimated yields of about 600 pounds. Peanut digging is still about a week away with estimated yields of about 2400 pounds per acre.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Dry weather continues to stall soybean pod development. Scattered showers have done little to rejuvenate crops. Soybeans are largely at risk now, as yield potential drops each day in this drought. Many livestock and horse folks looking for hay supplies to get them through the winter. Many unirrigated fall vegetables have failed. Corn harvest is continuing and farmers are surprised at higher than expected yields. Yields are highly variable according to the rain & planting date with some ranging from 150 to 200 bushels while others may be 50 bushels.



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WEATHER
&
CROPS



Week of: Sep. 17 - 23, 2007

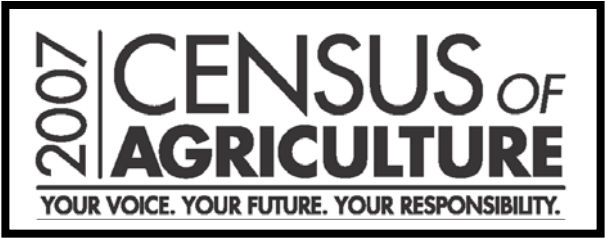
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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2007

It was a dry week for most of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for work were 6.7. Topsoil moisture was generally very short. Pastures and hayfields remain in poor condition. Livestock producers were supplementing pasture with hay. The corn harvest continues with higher than expected yields in some areas. Soybeans remain in a critical stage of production. Vegetable harvest is nearing completion with the exception of tomatoes, sweet potatoes and pumpkins. Other activities this week include stalk shredding, bushhogging, soil sampling and lime applications.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 23, 2007	46	41	13	0
September 16, 2007	18	51	31	0
September 9, 2007	38	51	11	0
September 2, 2007	21	43	35	1
August 26, 2007	25	36	36	3



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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	36	28	31	5	0
Livestock	2	10	31	48	9
Other Hay	37	22	32	9	0
Alfalfa Hay	29	20	40	11	0
Corn	27	40	23	8	2
Soybeans	23	38	31	7	1
Burley Tobacco	8	28	32	21	11
Peanuts	0	30	60	10	0
Cotton	1	40	49	10	0
All Apples	13	15	30	42	0
Grapes	0	6	14	60	20

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.	
Corn Mature	92	86	86	81	
Corn For Grain Harvested	40	28	30	34	
Corn Silage Harvested	95	80	83	83	
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	29	16	35	32	
Soybeans Harvested	2	NA	2	2	
Winter Wheat Seeded	3	2	6	6	
Barley Seeded	23	9	21	15	
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	80	71	65	72	
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	87	47	78	81	
Peanuts Dug	20	NA	16	12	
Cotton Bolls Opening	94	82	90	77	
Fall Apples Harvested	60	36	49	56	
Winter Apples Harvested	25	10	24	17	

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2007													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 22	Mar. 1 to Sep. 22 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	75	51	88	44	63	-3	3622	3425	0.05	1.21	-1.60	28.70	-3.54
Norfolk	76	67	86	63	71	0	4019	3797	0.07	.16	-3.04	24.41	-10.96
Richmond	77	58	89	49	68	-1	4025	3699	0.00	1.11	-1.81	30.17	-2.98
Roanoke	77	53	89	44	65	-2	3962	NA	0.06	1.11	-1.73	21.68	-10.67
Wash/Dulles	78	52	89	43	65	-1	3681	NA	0.00	.81	-1.98	18.47	-12.83
1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86º) + daily minimum (50º))/2-50º; where 86º is used if the maximum exceeds 86º and 50º is used if the minimum falls below 50º. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov . N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.													

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Corn harvest is delayed. Moisture is still too high, 19 to 23 percent. Reported yields of 20 to 150 bushels per acre with many at 75 to 85 bushels per acre. Soybean yield will be cut at least 30 percent due to lack of rain. Wheat seed is getting hard to get, especially the best varieties. Farmers are working on equipment, trimming ditch banks and getting trucks ready to haul grain. Corn harvest should pick up significantly next week. Fall tomato harvest is about over. Yields were off this year and prices low. Some spraying is being done for disease and insects in fall snap beans. Farmers are cleaning up harvested corn fields for wheat planting and taking soil samples.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest is in full swing. Yields are from 50-130, some spots even higher. Later maturing hybrids seem to have yielded better. DC Soybeans still need moisture to fill completely out. Yields will be average to below average. Many full season beans are dropping leaves.

EASTERN (continued)

MIDDLESEX (David Moore) continued.

Vegetable harvest is about over with the exception of tomatoes, sweet potatoes and pumpkins. Activities this week include corn harvest, land prep for small grains, barley and cover crop planting, stalk shredding and bushogging, soil sampling and lime spreading.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Another dry week which was hard on late soybeans trying to fill pods. Corn harvest continued with yields again mostly in the 40 to 70 range. A few fields have recorded 120 bushel yields. These were on a good soil type and caught a thunder shower at the right time. Broccoli is approaching harvest condition. A few pumpkins being harvested along with small quantities of other vegetables. Some hay fields had enough growth for a small cutting.